

Remarks

The present application is a continuation application under 35 U.S.C. §1.53(b) of U.S. Serial No. 09/018,603, filed February 4, 1998, for which a Notice of Allowance was mailed on October 4, 1999. Claims 2–21 of the prior application are canceled in the request for filing a continuation application included herewith. The present Preliminary Amendment requests cancellation of remaining claim 1 and submits new claims 22–45, numbered sequentially beginning with the next highest number after the highest numbered claim of the parent application. Support for new claims 22–45 is found in the specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Summary

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 22–45) are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

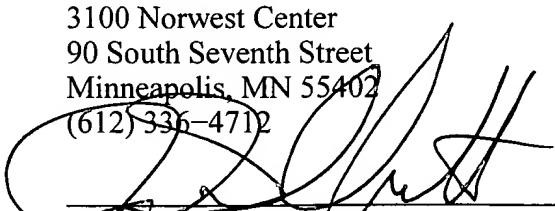
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DATE: 11/12/99